

Applicant: Maxson et al.
Appl. No. 10/773580
Examiner: Yang, Clara I.
Docket No. 705397.4014

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of preventing signal jamming within a consumer electronics system, comprising:
 - receiving a primary signal comprising a first message at a first receiving device;
 - interpreting the received primary signal during a quiescent period;
 - generating a secondary signal in response to the interpreted primary signal during the quiescent period, the secondary signal comprising a second message; and
 - wirelessly transmitting the secondary signal during the quiescent period, wherein the quiescent period is at least equal to the sum of the period of silence needed for a second receiving device to detect the second message, the duration of the second message and the period of silence needed for the first receiving device to detect the first message.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first message comprises one or more data blocks.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second messages each comprises a plurality of data blocks.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first message comprises a first data block and a second data block, and wherein the second data block is a confirmation of the first data block.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second message corresponds to the first message.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary and secondary signals comprise infrared (IR) signals.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary and secondary signals are transmitted at the same frequency.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first receiving device is a television and the second receiving device is an audio/video device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the primary signal further comprises a third message transmitted upon termination of the quiescent period.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the quiescent period is predetermined and greater than the sum of the period of silence needed for a second receiving device to detect the second message, the duration of the second message and the period of silence needed for the first receiving device to detect the first message.

11. (Original) A method for preventing signal jamming within a consumer electronics system, comprising:

continuously operating a function key on a remote control; and
wirelessly transmitting a plurality of primary messages from the remote control in response to the continuous operation of the function key, wherein each adjacent pair of primary messages is separated by a quiescent period having a duration at least equal to the sum of the period of silence needed for a first

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receiving device to detect one of the primary messages, the duration of a secondary message generated by the first receiving device in response to the detected primary message, and the period of silence needed for a second receiving device to detect the secondary message.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one primary message comprises one or more data blocks.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of primary messages and the secondary message each comprises a plurality of data blocks.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one primary message comprises a first data block and a second data block, and wherein the second data block is a confirmation of the first data block.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the secondary message corresponds to the primary message.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the primary and secondary messages are transmitted on an infrared (IR) frequency.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of primary signals and the secondary signal are each transmitted at the same frequency.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first receiving device is a television and the second receiving device is an audio/video device.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the quiescent period is predetermined and greater than the sum of the period of silence needed for a first receiving device to detect one of the primary messages, the duration of a secondary message generated by the first receiving device in response to the detected primary message, and the period of silence needed for a second receiving device to detect the secondary message.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of primary messages are formatted in accordance with a first protocol, and the secondary message is formatted in accordance with a second protocol different from the first protocol.

21. (Currently Amended) An interpreting device for preventing signal jamming within a consumer electronics system, comprising:
a receiver configured to receive a wirelessly transmitted primary signal;
and

processing circuitry configured to interpret the primary signal to determine if the signal comprises a first message corresponding to a user command that commands the performance of a delay-sensitive operation within the interpreting device, and superimpose a second message in a predetermined quiescent period following transmission of the first message if the first message commands performance of a delay-sensitive operation within the interpreting device, wherein the second message commands performance of the same delay-sensitive operation within the interpreting device, wherein the quiescent period is at least equal to the sum of the period of silence needed for the interpreting device to detect the second message, the duration of the second message, and the period of silence needed for the interpreting device to detect the first message.

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22. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 21, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to determine if the first message commands performance of an operation at a device other than the interpreting device.

23. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 22, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to generate a secondary signal comprising a third message in response to the interpreted primary signal and transmit the secondary signal to the other device during the quiescent period.

24. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 23, wherein the duration of the quiescent period is at least equal to the sum of the period of silence needed for a second receiving device to detect the third message, the duration of the third message and the period of silence needed for the interpreting device to detect the first message.

25. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 21, wherein the receiver is configured to receive the primary signal on an infrared (IR) frequency.

26. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 21, wherein the first and second messages are identical.

27. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 21, wherein the first and second messages are formatted in accordance with a first protocol, and the third message is formatted in accordance with a second protocol different from the first protocol.

28. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 21, wherein the interpreting device is a television.

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29. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 28, wherein the delay-sensitive operation is a visually-related operation.

2930. (Original) The interpreting device of claim 21, wherein the processing circuitry is further configured to perform the user command corresponding to the first and second messages.